

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAPPOR 00075 071325Z

41

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 OMB-01 /084 W

----- 044536

R 070700Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL SAPPORO

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0310

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAPPORO 0075

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, JA, UR, CH

SUBJ: HOKKAIDO AND SINO-SOVIET POLEMICS

REFS: A) SAPPORO AIRGRAM 12, JUNE 4, 1975(NOTAL);

B) SAPPORO 0062(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PRC LAVISHING MUCH ATTENTION ON HOKKAIDO RELATED ISSUES  
LATELY, BUT STRONG SOVIET REACTION APPEARS TO BE AWAKENING LOCAL  
LEADERS TO PERILS OF INVOLVEMENT IN SINO-SOVIET POLEMICS. END  
SUMMARY

2. PRC REGULARLY MINES HOKKAIDO PROBLEMS WITH SOVIET UNION FOR  
ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA, BUT, PRESUMABLY AS PART OF ITS CAMPAIGN  
TO EXTRACT ANTI-HEGEMONY PLEDGE FROM MIKI GOVERNMENT, PEKING  
HAS LAVISHED EVEN MORE ATTENTION ON THESE PROBLEMS OF LATE.

3. SO FAR THIS YEAR, TWO MIDDLE-RANKING DELEGATIONS FROM CHINA  
HAVE TOURED HOKKAIDO - ONE FROM NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY (NCNA) IN  
MARCH (REF A), THE OTHER FROM PRC'S CHINA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSO-  
CIATION IN SEPTEMBER. BOTH GROUPS MADE PILGRIMAGES TO NEMURO, CITY  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAPPOR 00075 071325Z

NEAREST TO FOUR SOVIET HELD ISLANDS, "NORTHERN TERRITORIES,"

CLAIMED BY JAPANESE, AND ISSUED SHRILL DENUNCIATIONS OF SOVIET POLICY. BOTH VISITS FOLLOWED BY EXPANDED NCNA REPORTING ON NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE. IN ADDITION, NCNA HAS BEEN FAITHFULLY REPORTING DETENTION OF JAPANESE FISHING BOATS AND DESTRUCTION OF JAPANESE FISHING GEAR BY SOVIETS IN NORTH PACIFIC.

4. THE TRAFFIC HAS NOT BEEN ALL ONE WAY. IN SEPTEMBER, HOKKAIDO GOVERNOR DOGAKINAI STOPPED BRIEFLY IN SHANGHAI ON LAST LEG OF WORLD TOUR. VISIT TIED TO STOPOVER OF HOKKAIDO YOUTH GROUP IN SHANGHAI, AND GOVERNORS HIGHEST LEVEL MEETING, WITH VICE CHAIRMAN OF CITY REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, WAS NOT SUBSTANTIVE SAVE FOR STANDARD ANTI-SOVIET WARNING FROM CHINESE SIDE. MAYORS OF TEN MAJOR HOKKAIDO CITIES ARE CURRENTLY VISITING PEKING, SHANGHAI AND SHENYANG ON ANOTHER GOODWILL MISSION.

5. THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT SUFFERED ALL THIS QUIETLY. DURING FRIENDSHIP GROUP'S VISIT ON SEPTEMBER 30, NEMURO MAYOR TERASHIMA ISSUED STANDARD CALL FOR RETURN OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES. FACT THAT STATEMENT MADE BEFORE CHINESE AUDIENCE UPSET SOVIETS SUFFICIENTLY TO ELICIT ATTACK ON MAYOR IN IZVESTIA (OCTOBER 5). SAPPORO SOVIET CONSUL GENERAL ALSO CANCELLED PLANS TO ATTEND JAPAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY EXHIBITION IN NEMURO SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 8. NEMURO MAYOR LATER EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND REGRET THAT SOVIET UNION REACTED SO STRONGLY TO FAMILIAR STATEMENT. LIKE OTHER HOKKAIDO MAYORS , TERASHIMA RECEIVED INVITATION TO VISIT CHINA IN OCTOBER, BUT FOUND PRETEXT TO DECLINE TO AVOID FURTHER CONTROVERSY.

6. NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE IS CURRENTLY HOT INFLAMMATORY ONE (REF B), BUT JAPANESE CLAIM TO ALL FOUR ISLANDS WIDELY SUPPORTED HERE. CONTINUED SOVIET FISHING FLEET OPERATIONS IN TRADITIONAL LOCAL FISHING GROUNDS, WITH DESTRUCTION OF JAPANESE TACKLE, CONTINUES TO RECEIVE DAILY ATTENTION IN HOKKAIDO PRESS. RUSSIANS REGARDED WITH SUSPICION, IF NOT DISLIKE, BY MAJORITY OF HOKKAIDO PEOPLE.

7. IN THIS ENVIRONMENT, SOVIET EFFORTS TO GET TOUGH WITH HOKKAIDO LEADERS GENERALLY BACKFIRE. HOWEVER, THIS TIME STRONG SOVIET CRITICISM OF NEMURO MAYOR WILL PROBABLY MAKE LOCAL LEADERS WARY OF BEING TOO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH PRC POSITIONS ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES. PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT BEGINNING TO WARY OF CHINESE PROPAGANDA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAPPOR 00075 071325Z

ON HOKKAIDO-RELATED ISSUES ANYWAY. WHILE LOCAL NORTHERN TERRITORIES REVERSION GROUPS PROBABLY WELCOME PUBLICITY CREATED BY CHINESE, SOME LOCAL POLITICIANS FEAR SUCH SUPPORT WILL ONLY STRENGTHEN RUSSIAN HARDLINE ON FISHING, AND INTERFERE WITH LOCAL OBJECTIVES, SUCH AS EXPANDING IMPORTS OF SOVIET RAW MATERIALS. SOVIET PROTEST WILL STRENGTHEN BELIEF HERE THAT HOKKAIDO SHOULD AVOID BECOMING ENMESHED IN SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE, AND SHOULD LEAVE MANAGEMENT OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES PROBLEM TO TOKYO.

8. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS HAVE BEEN LESS RECEPTIVE TO LOCAL GOODWILL GESTURES THAN PRC, PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT IS PERSISTING. TEN RUSSIAN DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO STOP IN SAPPORO ON THEIR WAY HOME FROM JAPAN-SOVIET GOVERNORS CONFERENCE (IN TOKYO) NEXT MONTH. IN ADDITION, CONSTRUCTION OF A "SOVIET AMITY AND CULTURAL ASSOCIATION HALL," FUNDED BY CHAIRMAN OF HOKKAIDOS JAPAN-SOVIET TRADE ASSOCIATION, BEGAN IN SAPPORO LATE OCTOBER.

9. COMMENT: WE EXPECT LOCAL LEADERS TO CONTINUE BUILDING CONTACTS WITH BOTH PRC AND SOVIET UNION IN HOPES OF STIMULATING TRADE. WE ALSO EXPECT THEM TO CONTINUE CALLING FOR RETURN OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES SINCE REVERSION REMAINS IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUE. HOWEVER, PREFECTURE WILL PROBABLY MAKE GREATER EFFORTS TO SEPARATE TERRITORIAL ISSUE FROM RELATIONS IN OTHER AREAS. FOR THE MOMENT, CHINESE APPEAR TO HAVE OVERPLAYED THEIR HAND. ASKED ABOUT RECURRING RUMORS THAT PRC INTERESTED IN OPENING CONSULAR IN SAPPORO, ONE STAFF ASSISTANT TO HOKKAIDO GOVERNOR REPLIED, "WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH COMMUNIST CONSULATES IN TOWN." THE ONLY COMMUNIST COUNTRY REPRESENTED HERE NOW IS THE SOVIET UNION.  
FARRARR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PROPAGANDA, HEGEMONY, GOODWILL VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SAPPOR00075  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750388-0276  
**From:** SAPPORO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751163/aaaaceic.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HOKKAIDO AND SINO-SOVIET POLEMICS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, JA, UR, CH  
**To:** TOKYO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006